

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUAYAQ 00057 111439Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
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DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01
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AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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MEXICO FOR RFO

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, EC
SUBJ: DISCUSSIONS WITH ATA, SAN DIEGO, RE FISHING LICENSES BY RADIO

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH EMBASSY QUITO REQUEST AND THE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION, I TRAVELLED TO SAN DIEGO TO MEET WITH THE AMERICAN TUNA ASSOCIATION (ATA) AND THE BANK OF AMERICA'S (BOA) INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS DIVISION, SAN DIEGO, TO REVIEW PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING BY RADIO FISHING LICENSES FOR AMERICAN TUNA BOATS OPERATING IN ECUADOREAN CLAIMED WATERS. I MET WITH MR. MANUEL SILVA, PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN TUNA ASSOCIATION IN THE ASSOCIATION'S OFFICE. I DISCUSSED WITH HIM THE PROCEDURES AS AGREED UPON BY THE ECUADOREAN FISHING AUTHORITIES IN GENERAL AND RETIRED NAVAL CAPT. WILSON ARROYO BOADA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FISHERIES, IN PARTICULAR. I REITERATED TO MR. SILVA THAT THE INTEREST EXPRESSED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN FACILITATING THE ISSUANCES
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PAGE 02 GUAYAQ 00057 111439Z

OF FISHING LICENSES BY RADIO IN NO WAY INFERRED THAT THE USG HAS RECOGNIZED ECUADOR'S 200 MILE TERRITORIAL CLAIM AND THAT I WAS THERE TO MEET WITH HIM BECAUSE OF MY POSITION AS U.S. CONSUL GENERAL IN GUAYAQUIL AND THUS THE ACTION OFFICER IN THE EVENT THAT ANY PROBLEMS AROSE.

2. MR. SILVA STATED THAT HE WELCOMED THE INTEREST EXPRESSED BY

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE FINE COOPERATION GIVEN BY THE DEPT OF STATE TO THE ATA AND HE WAS PLEASED THAT I, AS ACTION OFFICER IN GUAYAQUIL, WOULD TAKE THE TIME TO MEET WITH HIM IN SAN DIEGO. HE SAID THAT THE ASSOCIATION FAVORS THE CAPTAINS AND OWNERS OBTAINING ECUADOREAN LICENSES IN SPITE OF THE QUESTION OF THE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL CLAIM. HE SAID THAT FISHING REPRESENTS A BIG INVESTMENT AND THAT LICENSES ARE A RECOGNIZED COST FOR DOING BUSINESS. IT IS THE ASSOCIATION'S RECOMMENDATION TO THE OWNERS THAT THEY OBTAIN THE LICENSES. I REVIEWED THE PROCEDURES INCLUDING THAT OF OBTAINING A MATRICULA BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM PORT BY THOSE VESSELS NOT PREVIOUSLY LICENSES BECAUSE THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FISHERIES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ISSUE A LICENSE BY RADIO WITHOUT HAVING ON FILE THE REQUISITE INFORMATION NEEDED FOR A MATRICULA AND/OR A LICENSE. MR. SILVA SAID THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT CAPTAINS APPLY FOR A MATRICULA BEFORE LEAVING PORT IF THEY HAD ANY INTENTION OF FISHING OFF THE COAST OF ECUADOR. SINCE MOST OF THE VESSELS HAD ALREADY LEFT PORT, HE WAS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAD TAKEN ANY STEPS TO OBTAIN THE REQUISITE MATRICULAS OR LICENSES. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION YET ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR TUNA FISHING IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC ALTHOUGH SOME REPORTS HAD COME IN ABOUT POSSIBILITIES OFF THE COAST OF PERU.

3. MR. SILVA ALSO ACCOMPANIED ME TO THE BANK OF AMERICA WHERE I MET WITH MR. HERSCH IN THE INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS DIVISION WHO IS THE ACTION OFFICER FOR ARRANGING THE PAYMENTS OF THE LICENSE FEES.
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PAGE 03 GUAYAQ 00057 111439Z

MR. HERSCH FELT AHT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEMS IN THE ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT THUS FAR AND STATED THAT HE WAS CABLING INSTRUCTIONS TO BANK OF AMERICA'S GUAYAQUIL BRANCH AS SOON AS ALL THE DETAILS HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

4. UPON MY RETURN TO GUAYAQUIL I DISCUSSED THE PAYMENT PROCEDURES WITH MR. RONALD KETTERING AND MR. VICTOR FERRERO OF THE BANK OF AMERICA AND EXPRESSED THE CONSULATE GENERAL'S DESIRE TO SEE THAT THE PROCEDURES WORK SMOOTHLY. I RELAYED MY DESIRE TO BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE IN CASE ANY PROBLEMS AROSE. I SUGGESTED TO THEM THAT THE FINITE DETAILS BE WORKED OUT SO THAT THE PROGRAM WHICH SOUNDS FAIRLY SIMPLE IN THEORY WOULD NOT FAIL BECAUSE OF SOME SMALL DETAIL WHICH HAD BEEN OVERLOOKED. I ALSO SPOKE TO MR. OTTO SCHWARTZ BY TELEPHONE IN MANTA AND HE AGREED TO COME TO MY OFFICE ON HIS FIRST VISIT TO GUAYAQUIL TO DISCUSS PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED. MR. SCHWARTZ IS A COMPETENT AND KNOWLEDGEABLE BUSINESSMAN ON TUNA AFFAIRS AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO A GOOD JOB FOR THE ATA IF THE DISTANCE BETWEEN MANTA AND GUAYAQUIL DOES NOT BECOME A ABURDENSOME FACTOR.
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